



Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on May 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

## **Present**

**Administration:** Theresa Bitonti, Special Education Coordinator  
Jody Weller, Superintendent of Education

**Trustees:** John Willemsen

**Associations:** Mary Grise, Parent Representative, Member  
Marie Derosier, LDAO, Member  
Caroline Labrecque, Nipissing First Nation, Member  
April Porter, Community Living North Bay, Alternate

**Regrets:** Barbara McCool, Trustee  
Jeannie Boissonneault, NDSS, Member  
Corry Thomas, One Kids Place, Member  
Frank Ricciuti, SJSH LAC Teacher/Curriculum Lead

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## **1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & PRAYER**

Ms. Weller led the committee in prayer and land acknowledgement.

## **2. ROLL CALL/TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE**

Roll call was completed.

## **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by April Porter and seconded by Caroline Labrecque THAT the agenda of May 10, 2022 be approved as presented.

## **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by John Willemsen and seconded by Caroline Labrecque THAT the minutes of April 12, 2022 be approved as presented.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Return to In-Person Meetings

SEAC discussed remaining status quo for the remainder of this school year and moving to a hybrid model effective September 2022. Due to the number of regrets for this meeting, SEAC discussed sending out a survey to SEAC to gather all committee member's input. Results of the survey will be shared at the June 2022 meeting.

### b) Indigenous Education Program Highlights 2021-2022

Ms. Weller shared comprehensive NPSC Indigenous Education Program highlights under the four pillars of the Indigenous Education Board Action Plan:

- Using data to support student achievement (i.e. voluntary, confidential self identification data, report card results in oral communication, credit accumulation for Grade 9 NSL etc.),
- Supporting students (i.e. Indigenous Student Trustee, Indigenous Education at SJSH video, Makwa Dodem – Student Engagement Group, Speaker Series, Orange Shirt Day, Culturally responsive classrooms and learning materials, Niigaan Project etc.),
- Supporting educators (i.e. Educator Retreat, Virtual Classroom, Graduation Opening, Walking Our Path: Guided by Faith, NSL Program Resources etc.) and,
- Community and parent engagement and next steps (i.e. summer transition/graduation coach program, expansion of secondary programming, Niigann Ghdizammi Projects).

## 6. UPDATES

NIL

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Weller shared the following correspondence:

- a) Upper Grand District School Board – Re: PPM 81
- b) York Catholic District School Board – Re: Nursing Shortage
- c) York Catholic District School Board – Re: SIP Funding
- d) Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board – Re: PPM 81
- e) Near North District School Board – Re: Online Learning

## 8. INFORMATION ITEMS

### a) Board Report

#### i) Superintendent's Update

Ms. Weller shared the following information:

- Planning for the 2022-2023 school year is well underway. At the June SEAC meeting, Ms. Weller will present the 2022-2023 proposed preliminary Special Education Budget. Additionally, Ms. Barnhardt, Superintendent of Business, will present to SEAC regarding special education funding and grants.
- Planning for special education 2022 summer programming is underway.
- Highly successful and varied professional learning activities occurred on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2022. Educational Assistants completed the second portion of

First Aid training, while DECEs participated in training including topics related to Anti-Sex Trafficking, Mental Health & Well Being and Health & Safety. System teachers completed Anti-Sex Trafficking as well as Health & Safety training. Teachers also participated in a Happiness & Resilience session led by Dr. Patrick Carney.

ii) Coordinator's Update

Ms. Bitonti gave a brief overview of May's activities including the system review of Learning Skills Classroom and Learning Assistant Centers classroom learning profiles, as well as, transition activities with OAP Entry to School and OKP Transition to School programs. Special education 2022 summer programs in the areas of reading intervention and alternative programming are being planned.

iii) Secondary Lead's Update

NIL Report

**b) Association Reports**

i) NFN – Caroline Labrecque, Member

Nipissing First Nation has welcomed their new Director of Education and Council appointment, Mr. Daniel Stevens.

ii) LDAO – Marie Derosier, Member

NIL Report

iii) Parent Representative - Mary Grise, Member

NIL Report

iv) Community Living North Bay – April Porter, Alternate

Ms. Porter shared May is Community Living Month. This is a time when Ontarians celebrate the successes of creating inclusive communities for people with developmental disabilities. Ms. Porter encouraged SEAC to participate in May's activities.

**9. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS / OTHER**

SEAC discussed drafting a letter to the Ministry of Education expressing concerns regarding Special Incident Portion funding. SEAC also discussed providing feedback to the Ministry of Education via MACSE. Further discussion will be deferred until fall 2022.

Ms. Weller forwarded SEAC the 2021-2022 SEAC Action Plan. The plan will be brought forward to the September 2022 meeting.

**10. DATE OF NEXT SEAC MEETING**

The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2022 at 5:30 pm via Teams.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by A. Porter and seconded by C. Labrecque THAT the meeting of May 10, 2022 be adjourned at 7:10 PM.